

From Elizabeth Wagner, NBC, March 18, 2016, via email to Lily Lee, EPA:

Q. Can you please let us know what if any action the US EPA has taken in response to the admission by Navy contractor Tetra Tech that it falsified data and mishandled soil samples on Hunters Point? Has the US EPA reviewed any samples or required a resampling of any parcels on Hunters Point? If so, who performed the review? What was found?

A. The Navy is the lead agency responsible for the investigation and cleanup of the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS). EPA and its state regulatory agency partners oversee and enforce Navy compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (commonly called the Superfund law) to ensure the cleanup at HPNS protects human health and the environment.

In 2012, the Navy's internal quality control review of work by its contractor, Tetra Tech, discovered discrepancies from the results they would have expected in some HPNS soil samples taken after removal actions. Subsequently, Tetra Tech conducted an internal investigation, resampled the areas of concern, and excavated soil that had levels of contamination above health-based cleanup goals. The Navy hired an independent contractor to oversee work of Tetra Tech and other contractors at HPNS. Tetra Tech summarized their actions in a report to the Navy dated April 2014.

EPA—along with California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)—reviewed the sampling results in the April 2014 report carefully. No cleanup decisions had been made using the questionable data and future cleanup decisions will be based on the corrected data.

EPA will continue to closely review information about any new allegations that come to light and to monitor the actions of the Navy and other agencies with regard to work by Tetra Tech to inform any further EPA action.

Other agencies also play roles related to radiation at HPNS. For example, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and CDPH oversee the licensing of radiation cleanup service providers, such as Tetra Tech. After concluding its investigation of Tetra Tech at HPNS, NRC recently issued a notice of apparent violation and is considering escalated enforcement action.

For more information on the HPNS investigation and cleanup, contact William Franklin, Navy public affairs officer: (619) 524-5433, [[HYPERLINK "mailto:william.d.franklin@navy.mil"](mailto:william.d.franklin@navy.mil)].

For more information about Tetra Tech's NRC license, contact Diane Screnci, NRC public affairs officer: 610-337-5330.